

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

In the last number of this journal, will be found some suggestions for the better arrangement of the monuments in this edifice. We believe that the subject has long engaged the attention of the Dean and Chapter, and important changes would doubtless have been made ere this, were not very considerable difficulties in the way of alteration.

It is considered, that the removal of monuments, originally in churches, to buildings of distinct character, would be attended with impropriety. If this view be persevered in, it will be quite sufficient to obviate the removal to Mr. Barry's proposed quadrangle in New Palace-yard. The arrangement advocated by us, has been found to answer well in the Temple Church, and would unquestionably be a great improvement in the Abbey. However, matters are not likely to remain long as they are, and the attention bestowed, by those now in authority, to the improvement of the building in some other particulars, augurs well for its future condition. It has been decided to eject the organ from its present objectionable position over the doorway of the round-arch, where it greatly impedes the view, from the nave, of the eastern extremity of the building. It will be divided into two portions, each of which will stand on opposite ends beneath the arches, the small choir organ being allowed to remain. We are by no means ready to assent to the opinion of Mr. Cockerell, and to consider the organ well placed, as it now stands in the Abbey, and in most of our cathedrals. The length of the Gothic cathedral unquestionably adds to the majesty of the pile, and we would not sacrifice the effect, resulting from the long perspective of the interior, which the original architect tried successfully to gain, for the supposed advantage in the modern arrangement. We do not deny that the situation of a building, and the approaches to it, do not receive that attention in this day, which resulted in so much delight to the beholder in the temples of the Greeks. Our monuments may not be effectively placed at the ends of streets, or in open squares; but to sacrifice the unquestionable advantages of space, size, and length, in a building, is, we deem, extending a favourite theory farther than sound judgment warrants. Also, it may be well to recollect, that the same rules are not always applicable to what we are looking at, and which is before our eyes, as to that we are standing in, and which is around and about us. The Gothic architects were probably as well aware of the adjuncts to beauty in a building as those of any age.

The organ at Westminster, seen from below, is somewhat ineffective, but, on close examination, proves to be rather rich in ornament, carved with elaborate care and delicacy, and evincing considerable feeling for the style.

The stained glass for the windows of the south transept has been completed by Messrs. Ward and Nixon, and is already within the precincts of the Abbey. We may, therefore, expect to see something of it very shortly.

We believe that no decision has yet been arrived at, as to the placing of seats for the overflowing congregation in the transepts, which change was so strangely commented upon in some of the daily papers. If increased accommodation be urgently demanded, we trust it may be gained in some way less opposed to the distinctive character of a Gothic church. The works of architecture are the most valuable records of the past, but their importance is lessened or destroyed whenever an innovation is permitted to creep in. The nave and triforium, were at one time occupied by worshippers, and a considerable number might find room in either now. Were the nave made available, there would probably be a greater observance of decorum than appears to be now practised by the visitors: people are too much accustomed to consider all that is not in the choir the same as what is without the walls of the church. The removal of the monuments would have similar tendency.

We hope at no distant period to see the unsightly stalls of the choir replaced by rich and elegant carving, equal to any existing. The skill of modern artists in this branch is not inferior to that of their predecessors, yet, strange to say, it is little known or called for. The space eastward of the stalls should be enclosed with panes of wood or stone, as in the cathedrals.

E. H.

ON RENDERING PAPER-HANGINGS USEFUL AS WELL AS ORNAMENTAL.

BY MR. F. WHISHAW.

PAPER-HANGINGS are of several kinds, some of which are made in imitation of velvet, damask, chintzes, &c., while others are in imitation of marbles, stucco-work, &c.

There are three methods by which paper-hangings are painted: the first by printing on the colours, the second by means of the stencil, and the third by using the pencil as in other kinds of painting.

In the first method the impression is made by wooden blocks, in which the patterns are cut, the parts to be shown being made to project from the surface by cutting away all the other parts. The blocks being charged with the required colour, properly tempered, are pressed on the paper prepared with a proper ground of colour or varnish.

The colour to be used by the printer is spread on oil-cloth, laid on a flat block a little larger than the print; this operation is performed by an attendant, who spreads the colour with a brush on the block, between every stroke and impression made by the printer.

When the sheet is printed throughout, it is hung up to dry, and the operation is repeated with another piece of paper.

For each separate colour in a particular pattern there is a separate block, so that a piece of paper has to pass under the printer's hands as many times as there are distinct colours in the pattern to be produced; some modern papers have required as many as seventy-two separate blocks. The placing of the different blocks in the exact position on the paper requires considerable skill on the part of the printer.

The second method, which is adopted for common paper-hangings, is merely to print the outlines, and fill in the colours by stencilling.

The stencils are either of leather or oil-cloth, and are cut out to correspond with all the figures to be printed in one colour, and, being placed flat on the paper to be printed, the colour is rubbed over the upper side, thus passing through all the parts cut out, and giving the proper impression on the paper below.

This method is only applicable for patterns of the most common description, it being impossible to represent fine lines by the stencilling process.

The third method, viz., by pencilling, is only used for the more costly hangings in imitation of Chinese and India papers, and is performed in the same manner as other paintings in water or varnish; sometimes the outline is printed, and then the colouring performed by pencilling. The first of the three methods which I have endeavoured briefly to describe is the one in ordinary use, in which the order of printing is first to lay on the ground colour, next the various shades, then the lights, and lastly the outline. Very fine lines and points, or dots, are introduced by means of rules and points of the particular forms required, which are let into the wooden blocks, as types are let into the small blocks used for printing illustrations to books.

The above is only an outline of the ordinary methods used; but, as my object is to introduce a system of useful paper-hangings, I need not enter more into detail with regard to methods in practice of producing the finest specimens of hangings, but proceed at once to the object of this communication.

My mind has long been impressed with the idea of rendering the modern hangings of walls useful as well as ornamental.

For this purpose I have proposed that useful information should, in the more ornamental patterns, be so blended with the design, as not to disfigure it, and thus ornament, with amusement and instruction combined, would add greatly to the value of paper-hangings, and often serve as a ready guide of reference for information desired. When wanted especially for use, without any regard to ornamental appearance—as, for instance, Sunday and other schools, for the lecture-room of colleges and seminaries—I propose to introduce the information in panels.

I have arranged, mixed with several ordinary patterns, some specimens illustrative of my proposition; and, I think, it will be

allowed that in one or two of them the patterns are not disfigured by the introduction of the useful information they contain in the shape of historical and other facts.

In one pattern I have introduced words in several languages, which would be especially useful if carried out to a sufficient extent.

The greatest—indeed I believe the only objection which has been raised against the introduction of these useful paper-hangings is the cost.

Now, for patterns likely to be extensively used in infant and other schools and seminaries, it would be worth while to cut out the writing in wood blocks, or fix in metal letters for each particular sentence to be introduced.

Another mode I propose is, to have moveable types introduced into a frame, so arranged as to form a substitute for one of the numerous blocks required in cases where the pattern is made up of a variety of colours. Thus, when as many copies as are likely to be required at the time have been printed, the type is to be distributed, and again set up for another piece of information, while the rest of the pattern is printed with the different blocks as usual.

A third mode which I propose is to print the patterns complete in the ordinary way, leaving, however, spaces for the writing to be inserted according to the style and fancy of individuals. This is by no means so expensive a method as persons unacquainted with the process would be led to suppose.—*Transactions of Soc. of Arts, Vol. LV.*

[A similar suggestion appears in London's "Encyclopedia of Cottage and Villa Architecture." There is no reason but the expense, says the Encyclopedia, why a geographical paper should not be formed; or one exhibiting all the principal rivers, mountains, and cities in the world; or the portraits of eminent men with their names; or perpetual almanacs; or lists of weights and measures; or chronological or arithmetical tables; or, in short, any useful and instructive subject which it would be beneficial to the cottager to have constantly before his eyes. We all know how easily, and yet how deeply, the mind is impressed with objects that we are continually in the habit of seeing; and that what is learned through that medium in childhood is rarely, if ever, forgotten in after-life. There is also a paper on this same subject in the ninth volume of the "Penny Magazine," p. 52, with an engraved pattern. We should be glad to see it carried out.—Ed.]

BURIAL-GROUND PRACTICES.

SINCE the publication in our journal of Mr. G. A. Walker's communications on the subject of proceedings at Spauld's burial-ground, evidence has been adduced not simply confirmatory of all that was then asserted, but of horrors and atrocities almost incredible, and public attention is so fully aroused, that we may now confidently expect, before long, some legislative enactment to protect her Majesty's lieges from the fatal evils of the system. One witness, a lady, stated before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, that she lived in a house near the grave-yard, but had been obliged to leave it, as well as many other persons in the neighbourhood, in consequence of the intolerable and unearthly stench proceeding from the bone-house. One frosty night the smell was still worse than usual. She and her son ascended the top of the wash-house, which commands a view of the ground, thick volumes of smoke and sparks were issuing from the chimney of the bone-house; she saw two men carrying something in a basket which appeared very soft and to shake; took it to be human flesh. Her tenants who lived near the place were constantly complaining of illnesses from the smell. The weather became hot, and two of the children died from putrid fever. "Great sensation" was excited by this statement, say the newspaper accounts; and well there might be.

The loud cheering with which Sir James Graham was greeted in the House of Commons, when he said this case was one in which, clearly made out, he should certainly be inclined to interfere, showed plainly the state of public opinion on the subject. The audacity displayed by the manager, Mr. A. Bird, in the cool denial of the facts as first mentioned, and threat of legal proceedings, which we admitted